OH, MOZART, COME ON!
IT'S A SECRET.
SALIERI EVEN WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO ASK YOU.
WHY WON'T YOU DO IT?
NAH
JUST TAKE PART IN THE MUSIC FESTIVAL~!
PLEASE DON'T DODGE THE ISSUE BY SAYING IRRESPONSIBLE THINGS!!
BUT IF YOU GIVE ME A KISS, REN DEAR, I JUST MIGHT RECONSIDER.
Mm
PUSH
SERIOUSLY!
レンタロー激おこです。
REN IS ANNOYED.

第21楽章「王様のお友達」

MOVEMENT #21: THE KING'S FRIEND

TCH-
Tchaiko...
In shambles...
TCHAI-KO?!!
What happened?!
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO BE ALL WORN-OUT?!
OHHH, TCHAIKOOO, I'M SO SORRYYY..!
I DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE..!
OH, NO
I'M MY USUAL SMILEY SELF
YOUR EYES AREN'T SMILING AT ALL!!!

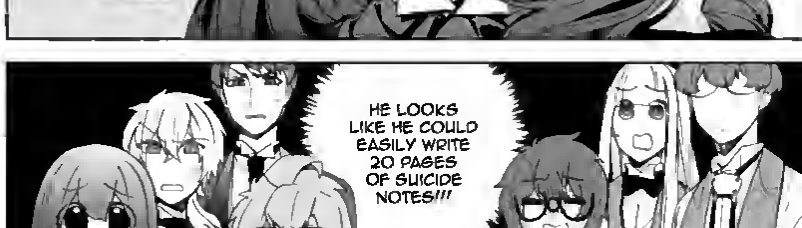
THE VIRTUOSO INDEED.
COMPOSING THE MUSIC ITSELF IS EASY.
BUT WHENEVER IT IS TIME TO REMOVE HIM FROM THE PIANO,
I ALWAYS END UP GETTING ATTACKED..
LIFT
HOW DO YOU USUALLY HANDLE THIS, CHOPIN?
I WISH TO SEEK YOUR ADVICE.
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WOULD FIND THIS RELEVANT, BUT...
cough

HIGH
LOW
ALSO, IF YOU GO AT HIM FROM A HIGHER POSITION YOU MIGHT SLAM INTO HIS ELBOW, SO I ALWAYS STRIKE HIM AROUND HIS HIP AREA..
WHEN LISZT FINDS OUT THAT THE PIANO WILL BE TAKEN AWAY FROM HIM, HE WILL GET VIOLENT
SO IN ORDER TO STOP HIM, I MAKE A LUNGE AT HIM, BUT ONLY FROM BEHIND.
SINCE YOU'RE AS TALL AS LISZT, IT'S EASIER TO GET HIT, I GUESS

SMILE
UMM, IS THAT DEPICTION OKAY?
IT'S FINE AS LONG AS IT'S NOT SHOWN ON THE PAGE
I SEE!
SO ALL I HAVE TO DO IS RESTRAIN LISZT BY GRABBING HIS WAIST FROM BEHIND?
WHY, THAT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING I'D BE GOOD AT.

SAME HERE, EVERYTHING'S PROGRESSING WELL SO FAR
BACH, HOW ABOUT YOU AND TAKKIE?
HOW'S IT GOING FOR YOUR TEAM, CHOPIN?
AH, I GUESS WE'RE DOING WELL
HAYON'S ANTICS KEEP ESCALATING THOUGH, CAUSING MY FINGERS TO CRAMP
A SCORE THAT WILL MAKE YOUR FINGERS CRAMP?!
I'M NOT GONNA GIVE YOU ANY WISDOM, EITHER
THAT'S BECAUSE THE TWO OF YOU ARE TOO SERIOUS
IT'S NOT EASY COMING UP WITH AN INTERESTING IDEA.
ASIDE FROM THE MUSIC, WE'RE STILL UNDECIDED ON WHAT TO SHOWCASE FOR OUR THEME
WHAT ABOUT YOU, BEETHO——
SPIN!

YEP...
MY TEAM AS WELL...
MUSIC'S COMING ALONG FINE...
THE MUSIC, THAT IS...
HEHEH...


HE LOOKS LIKE HE COULD EASILY WRITE 20 PAGES OF SUICIDE NOTES!!!

SCRIBBLE
I refuse!!
THAT
WELL, HE'S PAIRED UP WITH THAT SO I CAN EMPATHISE

There's nothing to be happy about!!
Congratulations!
WHEN WE WERE APPOINTED OUR TEAMS, I WAS SO HAPPY FOR WAGNER
BUT SOMEHOW THE TWO OF THEM DON'T SEEM TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD.
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED...
WAGNER...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
.....
WAGNER?

SLIDE
スススッ…
Is he
SLEEPING?!
FIDGET
……
NOD
NOD
WHY AM I GETTING THE FEELING THAT I'M SEEING SOMETHING I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO…?

NOD
NOD
EVEN FOR WAGNER,
HE DOESN'T HAVE A SCARY FACE WHEN HE'S SLEEPING
WOW, THERE'S A LOT OF REVISIONS AND NOTES...
FLIP
HERE TOO, AND HERE...
...HM?
THIS IS...
WAGNER'S MUSIC SHEETS...?
DEFEAT BEETHOVEN ?
COULD IT BE...
THAT WAGNER IS NOT COOPERATING WITH BEETHOVEN, BUT COMPETING AGAINST HIM INSTEAD. ?
NO WONDER BEETHOVEN IS MAKING THAT DEJECTED FACE..
HEY

G-
GOOD MORNING.
O.. DID YOU SLEEP WELL?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
!
YOU RASCAL!!!
HOW DARE YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ME BEING ASLEEP TO LOOK THROUGH MY STUFF!!!
TIGHTEN
AH! I'M SORRY!
I'M SORRY I SAW SOMETHING UNUSUAL!!
UNUSUAL?!
WHAT'S SO UNUSUAL ABOUT IT?!
THAT YOU DON'T HAVE AN ANGRY FACE WHILE YOU'RE ASLEEP.
!
That's unusual, so I

AND THAT'S WHY BEETHOVEN IS SO DOWNCAST...
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
YOU ALWAYS HAVE A SCARY FACE
むに
SQUEEZE
むに
SQUEEZE
AND, I'M NOT ANGRY ALL THE TIME!!
IT'S ONLY WHEN YOU GUYS TICK ME OFF...!
NOT ONLY DID YOU LOOK THROUGH MY MUSIC SHEETS, YOU ALSO TOOK THE LIBERTY TO LOOK AT MY FACE
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE...
MMPFFS...
CLUTCH
むにむに...
STRETCH
みょーん
YESHH IT DUSHH!!!
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM!!
SHUT UP, IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
!!
EXPLAIN THIS "DEFEAT BEETHOVEN" TO ME!
WHY DO YOU WANT TO DEFEAT YOUR TEAM-MATE?!

WAGNER
SLAP
FOR THIS MUSIC FESTIVAL, I WILL DEFINITELY THROW OUT A PIECE OF MUSIC THAT SURPASSES HIS.
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT!

IF I DON'T...
THAT NAP HE TOOK JUST NOW, MUST BE BECAUSE HE HASN'T BEEN SLEEPING MUCH IN ORDER TO WRITE HIS MUSIC...?
SIT

THEN EVERYTHING THAT I'VE DONE TILL NOW WILL BE DISCREDITED...!
I DID NOTHING BUT STUDY THEM INCESSANTLY, BUT FOR WHAT?!
I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO HIS SYMPHONIES FOR THE PAST 12 YEARS, SINCE I WAS FIVE.
WHO WILL DISCREDIT YOUR WORK?
HUH?
OF COURSE IT'LL BE THE PEOPLE AROUND US!!
NO, THEY WON'T

WHO IS GOING TO DISCREDIT THAT?
WAGNER, ALL THESE YEARS, YOU'VE BEEN A GENIUS IN THE OPERA WORLD.
YOU HAVE THE SKILLS THAT EARNED YOU THE TITLE OF "KING OF MUSIC DRAMA."

I ALREADY HAD AN INTEREST IN THEATRE.
AND I THOUGHT THAT IF I ADDED SYMPHONIES INTO THE MIX, AND CHALLENGE HIM WITH THAT,
I COULD COMPLETELY DEFEAT HIM.
BESIDES, I CHOSE OPERA BECAUSE

*T/N: Wagner didn't like his operas being referred to as "music dramas." (Wikipedia)

!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO COMPETE AGAINST HIM ON MUSIC,
OF COURSE YOU'D BE AT A DISADVANTAGE, WOULDN'T YOU?
EVEN THEN, IF YOU STILL SAY SOMEONE IS GOING TO DISCREDIT YOUR WORK,
THAT SOMEONE
WOULD ONLY BE YOU, WAGNER.

I'VE NOTICED THIS SINCE THE FIRST TIME WE SPOKE
YOU ARE SOMEONE WHO IS VERY STRICT WITH HIMSELF, AREN'T YOU?

EHHH
WHY ARE YOU ANGRYYY?!!
WHY DOES IT LOOK LIKE YOU ARE TRYING TO CONSOLE ME?!!
YOU WERE LOOKING UNUSUALLY DISMAYED.
I WAS NOT DISMAYED!!
WHACK
びし
Forehead flick!

WHILE YOU WERE TALKING, I CAME UP WITH AN IDEA.
?
BESIDES...
SHUT UP, I KNOW ALREADY!!
ANYWAY, FOR THIS MUSIC FESTIVAL,
BEETHOVEN IS YOUR PARTNER, NOT YOUR ENEMY
PLEASE COOPERATE WITH HIM.
OH YES!
I HAVE ONE MORE SUGGESTION
MUTTER MUTTER
LEND ME YOUR EAR FOR A BIT
?
WHAT IS IT?

I REFUSE!!!
WHY MUST I DO SUCH A THING?!
Eh
BEETHOVEN WOULD BE SO HAPPY IF YOU DID.
Like I said!!
I DON'T WANT TO MAKE HIM HAPPY!!

!!?
SLEEP-TALK?!
FINE THEN
INSTEAD,
I SHALL TELL HIM WHAT YOU SLEEP-TALKED ABOUT JUST NOW, SO THAT IT'LL CHEER HIM UP.

YOU SAID I WAS TERRIBLY SCARY, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK AT ALL, IS IT..?
.....
YOU

LIAR!!
THAT DID NOT HAPPEN!!
YES.... IT WAS REALLY EM-BARRASSING..
IT'S UP TO YOU TO BELIEVE ME

?
I ONLY SAID YOU HAD A SCARY FACE.
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE SCARY AT ALL.

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE A GREAT PERSON!
GRIN
にっ
THIS RASCAL..
IS TOTALLY MESSING WITH ME!
DAMMIT.
.....
DEAR FATHER, I TOLD A LITTLE LIE TO WAGNER
I'M DOING THIS FOR THE DOWN-HEARTED BEETHOVEN,
SO PLEASE FORGIVE THIS LITTLE WHITE LIE
BOW
He was sound asleep.
Actually, he didn't say anything.

.....ABOUT THAT...
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE.
REGARDING OUR SONS,
HOW ABOUT WE HAVE ANOTHER GO AT IT, BUT THIS TIME, WE DO IT TOGETHER?
!
AH, WAGNER, COME IN!
KEE-CHAK

*T/N Libretto = text/lyrics. The Japanese word used is "poem," which is exactly how Wagner referred to his own libretti (Wikipedia)

IT'S JUST AN IDEA...
BUT YOU'RE ADDING WORDS TO MY MUSIC, RIGHT?!
THAT'S WONDERFUL!!
THAT'S A MARVELOUS IDEA!!
I'M ALL FOR IT!!
YEAH, LET'S DO IT!!
!
WHAT IS IT?
...AND, ONE... MORE THING...
...NO... IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL.
SHUFFLE
ど
ど
?
.....
TAP
IF IT'S LIKE THIS
SMILE
THEN I MUST COMPOSE THIS MUSIC WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT

SHOVE
CAKE!
FOR YOU!!
Durch Leiden Freude
MO
!!!

LIKE I SAID!! TAKI BOUGHT IT FOR...
HEY!! LISTEN!! LOOK AT ME!! HEY!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT ME A CAKE!!
I'M SO HAPPY!!
I'M TELLING YOU FIRST.
I DIDN'T BUY THAT.
TAKI WAS THE ONE WHO...
WOWWW, THANK YOUU!!
I'LL GO CUT IT RIGHT AWAY! WAIT HERE FOR ME!!
HERE YOU GO, COFFEE AND CAKE.
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO GIVE ME A SHARE...
LOOKS SO DELICIOUSSS!
LET'S DIG IN!

POKE
CHOMP
...IS IT...?
TOO SWEET .....!
THIS CAKE IS HEAVENLY ♡

BAM
RENTARO !!
GYAH!
THUMP
THUMP
HM?
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
WAGNER TOLD ME THAT YOU GAVE HIM THE IDEA FOR OUR MUSIC FESTIVAL PRESENTATION
OH, THAT?
?
I didn't really say anything
BEETHOVEN?!
THANK YOU!
YOU REALLY HELPED ME OUT TODAY!
HUG
EH
AND THANK YOU FOR THE CAKE TOO
I ATE MOST OF IT, THOUGH
YES, I EXPECTED THAT.
W
Me

THAT'S RIGHT.
Alright then, catch you later~
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH, PLEASE ASK, OKAY?
THANKS TO YOU, RENTARO, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE MOVING AHEAD FOR THE MUSIC FESTIVAL.

*T/N: The direct translation says "sending salt to the enemy." Look it up!

FWIP
HAVING SAID THAT, I CAN'T LET ANYONE SEE ME DRESSED UP AS A GIRL...
IF ONLY THERE WAS SOMETHING I'M GOOD AT THAT COULD MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION
UNFORTUNATELY, WHEN IT COMES TO STRENGTHS, I DON'T REALLY
IT WOULD BE GREAT IF WE COULD PLAY ON EACH OTHER'S STRENGTHS, LIKE WAGNER AND BEETHOVEN

HM
BACH !!
GEH!!
AHHH !!
Gasp!
I'M SORRY FOR BARGING IN WHILE YOU WERE GETTING DRESSED! I WAS JUST TOO EXCITED.
TAK!!
AT LEAST KNOCK BEFORE YOU COME IN!!
BUT GREAT TIMING.
I'M HERE TO TAKE YOUR MEASURE-MENTS!
?
Hmph!

JAPANESE CLOTHING? (WASOU)
WELL, IT DOES SEEM LIKE IT'D MAKE AN IMPRESSION.
BUT ARE YOU ABLE TO PUT ONE TOGETHER FROM SCRATCH?
YES, I SHOULD BE FINE AS LONG AS I HAVE THE FABRIC FOR IT.
Let's measure your inseam next.
YES! I THINK YOU'D LOOK GOOD IN IT.
NEEDLEWORK IS SOMETHING THAT EVERY FEMA-- I MEAN, JAPANESE MALE NEEDS TO KNOW.
Eek
HIS INSEAM IS OVER 100CM LONG?!!
Astonishing! These overseas people!
NO, I SHOULD BE APOLOGETIC INSTEAD...
ALL THAT'S LEFT ARE YOUR CHEST AND WAIST MEASUREMENTS, SO IF YOU COULD SIT DOWN, I'D BE ABLE TO MEASURE THEM PROPERLY.
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU HELP ME OUT, BACH.
YOU ARE REALLY TALL, SO I CAN'T REACH.

BRAB
PARDON THE INTRUSION!
HUH
RAISE
NOW RAISE BOTH YOUR ARMS.
WHAT'S WITH THIS SITUATION?!
I MEAN, WE'RE JUST TAKING MEASURE-MENTS!!
HOW DO I SAY IT...
THIS IS...
WHAT THE?!!
SURR ENDER
HUDDLE
HUDDLE

AND WE'RE DONE!
FWIP
はい
俺からは
I'M NOT
GOING TO
触りませんよ
TOUCH HER
絶対に。
ABSOLUTELY NOT.
THIS IS JUST TOO EMBARRASSING.....!!
もぞもぞ
HUDDLE
*Seal = Johann Bach?
I SEE, SORRY ABOUT THAT
AH, LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE
WELL THEN, I'LL BE HEADING BACK TO GET STARTED ON THE PATTERN RIGHT AWAY!
I WILL!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
BACH?
NO... SORRY...
I'M JUST FEELING AWKWARD THAT SOMEONE YOUNGER THAN ME TOOK MY MEASUREMENTS...

SHUT
Sigh
TAKI WAS BEHAVING NORMALLY.
SO WHY WAS I GETTING ALL FLUSTERED FOR...?
AND I GUESS...
THIS MEANS TAKI DOESN'T SEE ME AS A MAN AT ALL. ?
I'm probably like a father to her
THUD
THUD
THUD

I WONDER IF I DID ALL RIGHT.
I WASN'T WEIRD AT ALL, WAS I?
HE COULDN'T HEAR HOW HARD MY HEART WAS POUNDING, RIGHT?!!
H-HOW NERVE-WRACKIIING!!!

I THOUGHT I SHOULD BE USED TO IT BY NOW, BUT IT'S STILL SO EMBARRASSING!!!
BEFORE THIS, I GAVE SALIERI A HUG.
AND EARLIER, BEETHOVEN HUGGED ME TOO.

Hmm
I wish he could give me some of his height
HIS CHEST SIZE SEEMS TO BE DOUBLE THAT OF BEN DEAR'S TOO
I WONDER WHAT IT IS THAT BACH EATS THAT MAKES HIM SO TALL
DEAR FATHER, I THOUGHT I HAD COMPLETELY ADAPTED TO LIFE IN VIENNA.
BUT HUGS ARE STILL DIFFICULT FOR ME NOW
THERE'S STILL A LONG WAY TO GROW.

次回に続く 11/10

廉太郎、
ついに正体がバレる!!?

全国書店にて好評発売中！

Thanks for reading!
Disclaimer: I don't own this manga
Please support the mangaka by purchasing the licensed version when it becomes available

Please pardon any mistakes!

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